

A
SERMON

Preach'd in
CHRIST-CHURCH,
DUBLIN,

ON
Saturday the 23d of October, 1703;

Being the
Anniversary Thanksgiving for Discovering
the Irish Rebellion, which broke out in
the Year 1641.

BEFORE
His Grace JAMES Duke of ORMONDE, Lord
Lieutenant, &c. and the House of LORDS.

By the Right Reverend Father in God, Edward Lord
Bishop of Down and Connor, one of Her Majesties most
Honourable Privy Council.

DUBLIN:

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Monday the 25th of October, 1703.

By the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled.

Ordered, **O**N Motion, That the Lord Viscount *Charlemont* and the Lord Viscount *Mazareen* do give the Thanks of this House to the Lord Bishop of *Down and Connor*, for his Sermon Preach'd in *Christ-Church* on *Saturday* last, being the Anniversary of the 23d of *October*: And that his Lordship be desired to Print the same.

Jo. Smyth, Cler. Parliamentor.



A

SERMON

Preached at

Christ Church, &c.

Isaiah 65. 25.

The Wolf and the Lamb shall feed together, and the Lion shall eat Straw like the Bullock; and Dust shall be the Serpents Meat: They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my Holy Mountain, saith the Lord.

BY Gods Holy Mountain we are here to understand the Christian Church, that Kingdom which the Blessed Jesus was to establish. The Metaphors here made use of, give us a lively representation of the Advantages Mankind was to expect under this Kingdom; and by them is signified such a perfect state of Peace and Tranquility, as nothing in this World can parallel. Happy Days and glorious times are promised by the Prophets when the *Messiah* should Come and Reign: And not only the Prophets, but all the Writings of the Old Testament had this view and design to prepare Men for receiving him.

The Law was our Schoolmaster to lead us to Christ; and

and accordingly that Dispensation, with regard to the Gospel, is compared to Rudiments, Elements, and imperfect Beginnings ; nay, these Elements are called mean and beggerly by St. Paul, where he Reproves the converted Jews for adhering to them ; But here we must observe that these Imperfections are no way chargeable on that great Fountain of Purity and Perfection from whom they proceed, for this is God himself, who yesterday, and to day, and for ever is the same ; but on the Jews, who were not capable of a more perfect Institution, and to whom the Law was thus shaped, because of their obstinacy, and for the hardness of their Hearts. However by that Law they were instructed that our Peace and Reconciliation were to be made, but that without shedding of Blood this Remission could not be obtained, that the Justice of God did require a Sacrifice for Sin. When the Providence of God saw them fit for higher Learning and nobler Revelations, then they are taught that the Blood of Bulls and Goats could neither justify the Sinner, nor be a Worship agreeable to the Divine Nature : That the Blood of another Sacrifice must be shed to make the Attonement for Sin ; that this Sacrifice must be the *Messiah* ; and that by His Death such a Kingdom shall be established, in which Peace and Righteousness shall dwell : That by His coming the condition of Mankind shall be improved, the change shall be so Great and Happy, that it shall seem as if the Heavens and Earth were new made for us.

The *Messiah* came in the fulness of time, and compleated every thing that had been promised of Him. He made our Peace with God by giving His Life for our Attonement ; and by this means reconciled a greater Opposition than there can be between the *Wolf and the Lamb, or between the Lion and the Bullock*. He made Peace among Christians by correcting all the angry Passions of Human Nature, and teaching us mutual Love and Charity, by representing Himself for our Example of these Virtues, and enjoyning us to love

love one another as He had loved us. This Peace He Taught, every action of His Life expressed it, and He bequeathed it for a Legacy to His Disciples.

But how it has been observed among Christians, how those who pretend to be the most zealous, if not the only followers of Christ have violated this Duty, will appear to any who considers the History of this Day, and the occasion of our present Solemnity.

My Discourse upon it shall be offered to your serious Meditation in the following method.

First, I will consider such Qualifications of the Christian Spirit, as are represented under the Metaphors of my Text.

Secondly, I will Examine and Judge by this Spirit, the Cruelties of the *Jewish Rebellion*, which were to be Executed on this Day.

Thirdly, I will consider from what Principles, from what Spirit these Barbarities did proceed.

Fourthly, I will represent the Duties which this Deliverance does require from us.

By the Qualifications of the Christian Spirit here represented, we may observe that it is,

First, A Spirit of Peace.

Secondly, A Spirit of Mercy. And,

Thirdly, 'Tis a Spirit of Charity.

The Christian Spirit, is a Spirit of Peace. Christ is the Prince of Peace. The Angels who Proclaimed His Birth, make this a part of their Anthem of Praise, *Glory be to God in the highest and on the Earth Peace, goodwill towards Men*. The Wisdom which is from above, (by which we are to understand the Christian Religion) is first Peaceable, then Pure and Gentle.

The *Levitical Law* was a Dispensation shaped to the stubbornness of that People; it was delivered with Terror, and Gods visible Judgments were often Issued to Command obedience to it. If the Prophets and Messengers of God were then Scoffed at and Rejected, it was lawful for them to call down

down Fire from Heaven, to destroy such Unbelievers; but Grace and Peace came by Jesus Christ, and we Christians have another Spirit.

Peace in the *New Testament* has a large and comprehensive meaning, it signifies chiefly the Reconcilement made by Christ, between the offended Majesty of God, and a sinful World. It also signifies the outward Quiet and Tranquility of States and Kingdoms, and directs us to Cultivate this Peace, and to show the tenderest regard to the Quiet and Welfare of Mankind.

This appeared in the Life of the Blessed Jesus, who taught Obedience to the Civil Magistrate, and wrought a Miracle to show His acknowledgement of paying Tribute to Cesar.

The Holy Apostles walked by the same Rule, and followed exactly the example of their Master. St. Paul has given this Duty the strictest Obligation, by requiring Obedience to such a *Roman* Emperour who had only the shape of a Man, for his Qualities would claim a place for him among Wolves and Tygers.

The Primitive Christians were strict observers of the Gospel, and of Christ's example. And tho' their Enemies loaded them with Reproaches, and abused them with the falsest Misrepresentations, yet they always acknowledged them to be Men of the most peaceable Tempers, to be the best Neighbours and the best Subjects. When those holy Men were Trauded, they appealed to their Lives, and called upon the Officers of the *Roman* Empire to examine, if any were more careful of the Publick Peace, or indeed of all Virtues which could promote the good of Humane Society.

These were the honest Methods by which under the favourable Providence of God, our Holy Religion prospered, and the word of God grew and multiplied; this often softened Persecutors into Believers, and made Enemies Disciples.

Rebellion, Ruin, Murders, and Extirpation, are new ways to carry on the Catholick Cause, they are foreign to the Gospel, and directly opposite to this spirit of Peace. The Superstition

perdition of *Mahomet* has been propogated by Conquest, and the Idolatry of the Heathens might prevail over some Countries the same way, but we are of another Spirit, and do profess the Gospel of Peace.

'Tis the blackest Calumny to affirm, that the First Christians were thus tame and submissive, because they wanted Power to do otherwise; for Almighty God did then support his Church by Miracles, his Hand, which can never be shortened, was then lifted up, and it was equal to him to have Defeated all that Force, and Malice which, turned against the Church, as it was to have Converted one Persecutor. When the Blessed Jesus submitted to his cruel Murderers, He had the Hosts of Heaven at Command, and Thousands of Angels were at hand to have made his Army; He had Death in his Power, and could have given them all up to this Destroyer. But His Kingdom was not of this World, He came to do us more Good, than to provide for us any Worldly Advantages, He came to Convert Mankind, and this must be done not by Force and Violence, but by the Gentle Methods of Preaching and Perswading.

But 2dly, The Christian Spirit is a Spirit of Mercy, for we are commanded to do good unto all Men, to regard all Mankind as our Brethren and Neighbours, to put that value upon every man as to Reckon him the Price of Christ's Blood, and such for whom he condescended to die; and lest men should exercise their scorn and cruelty against the Poor and Afflicted, these are declared to be God's Family, and his peculiar Care: what we give to them shall be a Treasure laid up in Heaven for us, it shall be accounted for, as given to God, and we shall receive the Reward of it at the final Judgment. We must not look down on any man with pride and contempt, or reckon him vile and reprobated, because he may differ in Opinion from us, we must not Prosecute any man with Hatred Revenge, or Persecution.

This is forbidden in two cases for our Instruction, and these are so plausible, that if any Temptation could have justified

fied this Practice, these would have done it. The first was an indignity offered to the Person of our Blessed Saviour by the *Samaritans*, and the second, his being apprehended as a common Malefactor. These were high Provocations, and it should seem proper occasions for Christ's Disciples, to show their zeal and concern for their Master, and yet our Saviour reproved the Apostles, for the first, by telling them they did not understand the Christian Spirit, and he works a Miracle in healing the Ear of the High Priest's Servant, to show his dislike of the latter. Mercy, tenderness and compassion should so fill the heart of a good Christian, that no room will be left for Hatred, Revenge, or Cruelty.

For 3dly, The Christian Spirit is a Spirit of Charity.

Mercy teacheth us to relieve the distressed, and not to prosecute any Injury that may be offered to us with Reproaches or Revenge, but Christian Charity goes further, and requires us to love our Enemies, to do good to them who hate us, to bless them who revile us, and to exchange good offices for bad. Our blessed Saviour went to the perfection of this Virtue, for he died for his Crucifiers, and did the greatest good for them who glutted their malice in doing against him what they took to be the greatest Injury. Saint *Stephen* prayed for his murderers, and made the best returns for the worst usage.

Thus is Humane Nature Improved, nay, Refined and new moulded by this virtue of Charity; St. *Paul*, who was so active in Persecuting and Oppressing the Church, whilst he remained a *Jew*, becomes a new man immediately upon his Conversion, when he is formed according to this Spirit, he is all Patience and Forgiveness, he becomes all things to all men, and labours to do good to his Enemies and Persecutors.

These are the qualifications of the Christian Spirit I am now concerned to Represent to you, proceed we then,

2dly, To examine and judge by this Spirit the Cruelties of the *Irish* Rebellion, which were to be executed on this Day.

In order to this, let us taken a short view of this Rebellion.

It was not a single Person, one Family, Town or Province, but a whole Nation, the *English*, nay, the whole *British* Name and Nation, that were intended to be the Sacrifice of this day.

A man must be extremely hardned in Villany not to stagger at some degrees of Cruelty : but here,

2dly, Women, Women under the pitieable circumstances of being with Child, Infants that were newly Born, and others Torn from the Wombs of their Mothers, have their parts in this days Tragedy. The Sheep and Oxen which belonged to *English Protestants* were sentenced to the same fate, and multitudes of them were destroyed for no other reason, but because they had Protestant Masters ; and though they punished themselves into want by it in many Places, this could not set Bounds to their Barbarity.

The Ministers of God, the Publishers of the Gospel of Peace, as being unarmed Men and dedicated to God's Service, have been sometimes exempted from Rage and Cruelty : but here,

3dly, A larger measure of Barbarity, the first and severest strokes of Cruelty fell upon God's Ministers, none who came within their Power escaped the most Ignominious and painful Death : It was esteemed an evidence of their Zeal to kill such, and though they had often the Faith of Treaties for their Security, I find in the History of this Rebellion, but very few Instances where they had the Benefit of it. If they had sometimes the mercy of a quick Death, it was because the malice and rage of their Enemies would not allow time for more Cruelty.

'Tis some abatement of Cruelty, when it proceeds from a sudden Heat or Passion, a mans reason is then less guilty, and can plead the prevalence of sensitive Nature : but here,

4thly, This Rebellion was concerted calmly, it was the contrivance of much time, and the Result of frequent Councils, Emissaries were often sent to *Rome*, to *Spain* and *Flanders*,

ders, to acquaint them how it proceeded, and to receive further Directions how it should be carried on; What Numbers were admitted into this wicked Secret? Was not the whole *Irish* Nation involved in the Guilt of it? And such measures did certainly require long Consultations, and much time. It was acknowledged upon Oath, that it had been eight Years in agitation; and they were certainly Masters at Plotting and overturning of Kingdoms, who could bring such a monstrous Design to maturity in that space of time.

'Tis some abatement of Cruelty when there is a great Provocation given to raise it; but here,

5thly, The Persons to be murdered and extirpated were the Protestants of this Kingdom, who had obliged the Papists by all good Offices: who had intermarried, and entred into the nearest Relations with them: who had a Church Establishment which abhors Cruelty and Persecution, and which therefore allowed the Papists a free Exercise of their Superstition: Who had no other fault but that their Kindness and Indulgence deceiv'd them into Security; and that they thought themselves safe in the Friendship, Gratitude, and good Neighbourhood of the *Irish*.

If we inform our selves of the condition of this Kingdom when the *English* were first invited into it, we shall find their Manners entirely corrupted and grown barbarous; their Religion degenerated into the grossest Superstition; and the whole Kingdom under the Ravagings of Tyranny and Barbarism. We have been told that they were once a flourishing People, and an *Island of Saints*; but the *English* found all this changed and reversed. And it was certainly a great Blessing in those circumstances, that a polished Victorious People came among them. From the *English* they learned Humanity, Arts and Sciences. These generous Conquerors gave up in time all the advantages of Superiority: They admitted the *Irish* to equal Priviledges, and there were Laws provided to remove all differences, in order to make us one People. When our Happy Reformation

was established in *England*, it was propagated to us here; and nothing was denied to the *Irish* which the *English* did enjoy; and yet Murders, Rebellion and Extirpation were the returns they made for so much Goodness and Clemency.

The manner of Executing a cruel Design adds weight and Aggravations to it.

And here 6thly, a quick Death, a speedy Deliverance from pain were Favours often denied to the Protestants, but as the mercies of the Wicked are cruel, they were often stripped naked and exposed to the severities of Winter, and as our Historian tells us, to a Season more intemperate than had been known before. If the mercy of any Neighbour had furnished them with Rags to cover their Nakedness, and defend them from the Cold, the same Cruelty proceeded to insult and strip them again; and there are Examples of Men and Women who were six times stripped and exposed to the Weather. These monuments of their Cruelty walked about like Ghosts and Spectres through many parts of this Kingdom, some lived to come up to this City, and needed not to describe their sufferings, for their Ghastly faces and withered bodies gave a just and lively Representation of it. In these Instances Life was spared, but they were condemned to a condition worse then Death, and exposed to misery that rendered every moment of their Lives worse then the Pangs of an ordinary Death.

Here we may observe a Spirit of Cruelty not to be satiated: Revenge and Resentment do often relent when they have killed their supposed Enemy: This has often melted Cruelty into Tears, and we have seen Men embrace the dead Body of that Person whom they have abhorred when he was alive: but it was a common practice among these Rebels to insult and abuse dead Bodies: They would often lament their Arms and Feet, being tired by mangling and tearing these.

There is a degree of tenderness and compassion natural to Women; Children are under the same restraint, and it requires

requires time to harden and train them up to Villany ; but here, even these became Murderers and Rebels, and committed all the Outrages and Cruelties which they had Power or Strength to execute ; the *Irish* Children killed the *English* Children, and their Women did the like.

There are some factious and turbulent Spirits in all Countries ; and these have carried on Rebellions in all Ages : but here, a whole Nation, all Ages and Sexes come into the same cruel Design, to murder, destroy and extirpate. There were thousands and thousands privy to this Rebellion, and yet we find but one who had so much tenderness of Conscience left as to be staggered with the Barbarity of it, and him God made the Instrument of discovering it, and preventing the Execution of it in this City.

It were just and honest to acknowledge that this horrid Conspiracy took its rise in Hell, and was suggested by those Infernal Spirits who were the first Rebels against their God, and tempted men into the like Wickedness : But here men have the face to declare that they did this to promote the Cause of Christ, and to propagate the Gospel : Accordingly it was communicated under the Seal of Confession, mens Consciences were bound up by Oaths ; the Holy Sacrament was prophaned, and they were told it should be Damnation to them if they revealed the Secret, or failed to engage in the Rebellion : and certainly, the World never saw a greater instance of the Power of their Priesthood over a mislead ignorant People, than in the Success of this Rebellion.

The Holy Bible has been often treated with Neglect and Reproach by the *Romish* Writers, but here it was trampled under Foot, and passed through the same Insults, which the Protestant (whom they were pleased to call Heretical) Ministers suffered, whose Companion, Comfort and Viaticum it always was. And this we are not to wonder at, for the Barbarities then executed were a greater affront to it, than the burning it, tearing it, and the like Indignities.

Having thus drawn out a short view of that horrid Conspiracy

spiracy, we have full evidence to condemn it, when judged and examined by the Christian Spirit. What can be more opposite to the Gospel of Peace, than to throw a Nation into *Rebellion* and *Confusion*? What is more contrary to the Christian Duties of *Mercy* and *Charity*, than to glut themselves in the Blood of a Hundred and Five Thousand British Protestants? for so many Perished in Three Months, by the Cruelty of this *Rebellion*; and this number swelled to Three Hundred Thousand before the Cessation, which was not full Two Years after. Nothing that ever passed before by the name of Religion has offered to countenance or encourage such Barbarities, and we may be sure that our Holy Religion, which was to form our Hearts into Peace and *Mercy*, must disown and condemn them.

But here it may be asked, what it is that could thus transform *Men* into *Monsters*, and change them into Wolves and Tygers, or indeed into strains of Cruelty beyond these Comparisons?

Were not the *Irish Rebellion* a thing notorious, were it not recorded by the most exact Historian, and from Relations taken upon Oath, had not the greatest part of you who are this day my Hearers, felt it in your own Families, it might seem as *Legendary* as any thing the wildest Imagination could Invent; and it would scarce be believed that Christians could execute and contrive such Cruelties against their Brethren, and Benefactors: But as the matter is too certain, so I hope the pious appointment of this Festival will preserve the memory of it for ever, and teach us the Duties we owe to God on this occasion.

We have lately seen a Time when it was a breach of Good Manners to call it a *Rebellion*; this *Harsh Word* was softened into a Commotion or Disturbance, and this was justified by the provocations given to the *Irish*, and the severe Laws which were executed against them; and to Raze all the Foot-Steps and Monuments of it, the History of it was bought up with Industry, and with equal care was destroyed, and was
voted

voted to be an Infamous Libel. But we have yet some living Witnesses of this Barbarity; our Festival and History are Records of it, and our Memories have been refreshed by later Plots and Conspiracies, tho' not of the same horrid Complexion, yet certainly Unchristian, Cruel, and Unhumane.

But that I may answer the above Enquiry, I proceed, 3^{dly}, to enquire from what Principles, and from what Spirit, this *Rebellion* could proceed?

To which I answer, That this *Rebellion* must derive its Rise, must owe its Growth, and the whole train of its Execution, to the dangerous Doctrines of the Church of Rome, by which I mean,

First, Their having defined all to be Hereticks who are not of their Communion.

Secondly, Their having declared these Hereticks to be vile and reprobated, and no more to be regarded than the most despicable Creatures; nay, the Dead Bodies of such have been abused in the most Humane Countries of that Perswasion.

Thirdly, That it was real service if not a Duty to the Catholick Cause, (by which they mean the Christian Religion,) to destroy and extirpate such.

And what is the *Rebellion* now before us, but the natural and genuine Issue of this Doctrine? We were Hereticks to them, because we professed and worshipped according to the *Reformed Religion*, and they treated us as such, in endeavouring to destroy and extirpate our Name and Nation.

From the same fatal Fountain have proceeded that Succession of Plots and Contrivances which have been continually employed against our Happy Reformation, the *Gun-Powder Treason*, the Cruelties of this Day, later Designs, and the same endeavours which we may justly fear are still on foot to destroy us.

But here let me observe to you, that the Church of Rome chuses rather to practise this Doctrine than to reason or dispute about it. It seems to be their *Arcanum Imperii*, only to be used on emergent and great occasions, or like another

of the Popes Treasures which is said to be laid up for extraordinary Services.

When we charge them with it, their defence is, some few of their Divines transported by Zeal and Bigotry may have said so, but that in this they speak their own, not the sense of the Church of *Rome*. When we drive them from this Refuge, and show them this cruel Doctrine in the Fourth Lateran Council, received by themselves for general, and as such obliging their whole Church by its Definitions; their Answer is, That general Councils are Infallible, in determining matters of Faith, but that in points of Discipline or Government, their Authority is Disputable, and may be Contradicted.

I dare affirm, that this nice distinction is known but to few of that Communion, the light in which this dangerous Doctrine stands before them, is, that many of their most famous Divines, and indeed all the Flatterers of the Popes grandeur, do maintain it; that it has gained the Reputation of not only being true, but Infallible, by standing among the Definitions of that General Council, and without the help of their Doctrine of Probability, I think all their Casuists will declare that those are sufficient and safe Guides for Conscience. If they do in earnest believe these destroying Principles to be false as they are Barbarous, why are they not publicly Disowned and Exposed? why do not their Casuists condemn them, and warn all People of their danger? why are not the Cruelties of this Day condemned by some Synod or Council? why have such whom we have justly Executed for Traitors and Malefactors, been sometimes Translated into their Calendar of Saints and Inrolled among their Martyrs? The many Rebellions, Plots and Treasons we have seen, are plain and sensible Arguments for charging them with these Principles, the Inquisition in *Spain*, the Persecution in *France*, are Evidences for it, and were all other Examples lost or forgotten, the *Irish* Rebellion, which broke out upon this Day, would stand a melancholy, but sufficient Proof of it.

These

These Cruelties were the sad and destructive Effects of a blind mistaken Zeal, but this Zeal we see proceeded naturally from the dangerous Principles of the Church of *Rome*: And to me it appears no way strange, that the angry Passions of Humane Nature being thus set on fire, being Licensed and Warranted by these Doctrines, do run out into such Excesses of Cruelty and Barbarity. Cleanse the Fountain and then the Waters will flow pure, let these Principles be disowned and condemned by that Church, and then the virtues of Peace and *Mercy* may adorn her Disciples.

I know the Hatred which the *Irish* are supposed to have against *English* men, as supposing them Conquerors and Invaders of their Country, has been Reckoned one of the causes of this Rebellion. This, it may be feared, had very bad Effects, the Industry by which the *Irish* are observed to maintain their old Names and Customs, shows their desire to keep up a separation, and the *British* Name and Nation was what they now endeavoured to Extirpate.

But I take their Hatred against us, as supposing us to be Hereticks, to have wrought more powerfully, for we find the *English* Off-spring of the Pale, to be drawn into this Rebellion, against their own Country men, because they were Papists; and it cannot be imagined that the whole *Irish* Nation could have been drawn into such barbarous Practices, if they had not been set on Fire by the furious Principles of the Church of *Rome*.

The Policy and Laws which the *English* Introduced, shewed their desire to Incorporate with the *Irish*, and to grow up into one and the same People; they could not but acknowledge that the *English* made good Friends and useful Neighbours: their only Crime then seems to have been Heresie, and for this new Crime they were all designed for the Sacrifice of this Day.

There are some Doctrines maintained by the Church of *Rome*, which are so plainly against Reason and Scripture and so Extravagant, that many have doubted whether they

them

themselves can believe them ; such are the Articles of Christ's corporal Presence, Purgatory, and that cruel Principle of extirpating Hereticks now before us.

But whatever exception may be made in favour of some persons who are more enlightned in that Communion this dangerous Doctrine Appears to be believed and practiced among them : 'Tis very true, that it is monstrous and extravagant, against the common Impressions of Humanity, and much more against the Gospel of Peace ; but is it not within the power of Interest and Education to turn a man's Judgment against the Evidences of Reason and Scripture ? He who by an implicate Obedience gives himself to the Impositions of the Church of *Rome*, is prepared to receive the greatest Extravagancies : And of this nature are the Doctrines now mentioned.

This has given occasion to the comparisons made between Popery and Paganism, and has induced many to prefer the Religion of Heathens, and to wish for the fate of Philosophers. I will not now enter upon that Subject, but exhort that Church to consider seriously what just occasion they have given for this Reproach, and how they have caused the Name of Christ to be Blasphemed, and have hardened the Hearts of *Mahometans* and *Pagans* against the Gospel : This comparison has been made between many points of Doctrine and Worship ; but as to that cruel Principle of destroying such as are of a different Communion, I know nothing parallel or comparable to it among the Heathens.

There is one pretence for this Rebellion, which I cannot but observe, to vindicate the memory of King *Charles* the First ; some of the Rebels here endeavoured to colour their Treason by saying it was his Cause, and that they took up Arms to assert his Rights, which were then cruelly invaded : The King's Enemies in *England* knew the Imputation to be false and barbarous ; however, it being their design to murder his Reputation, to open the way for murdering his

his Person, they went in with this Fiction, and with great Industry advanced it.

But surely the great Zeal and Concern which this Prince show'd for suppressing that Rebellion ; his frequent Messages to the Parliament to provide against it ; his Christian and Princely Virtues which shined so bright, the malice of his Enemies being silenc'd when they could not trace and fix it, will be his Justification to future Ages against so foul an Aspersion.

We have already found the true causes of this Rebellion, and have justly laid it upon the dangerous Doctrines of the Church of *Rome* : I do not charge all who are of that Communion with knowing these Principles ; and make no doubt but there are some generous Spirits on that side not capable of being tempted into such Barbarities : The last Popish Plot gave Examples of this in *England*, at which some Noble Families were so justly offended, that they quitted the Interests of that Church, and turned Protestants. But how powerful and engaging do we find the Arts of Popery in the History of this Rebellion ? a whole Nation drawn into this wicked Secret, and engaged to execute such a horrid Design : The Gentlemen of the Pale forget their Country, and being Papists, go in with it ; all Ages and Sexes become Murderers, and what naturally follows, but that the Emissaries of *Rome* can draw their Followers into such Practices when they please.

I will not abuse your Patience by taking up more time to confute and expose that Doctrine which influenced this Rebellion : This has been done already by showing its direct opposition to the Christian Spirit of Peace, Mercy, and Charity. He that would judge of Christianity by these Extravagancies of Popery, would take it for a Law of Confusion, Cruelty, and Inhumanity ; and would conclude, that the World had been much better without it.

But let not our Holy Religion suffer by the madness and wickedness of any Party of Men who have changed it into an Artifice to serve their own Ambition and Interest; for 'tis certainly the Gospel of Peace, and we Christians ought to be of another Spirit.

I proceed now in the fourth and last place to consider the Duties required from us on this occasion.

And here, 1st. 'tis our Duty to remember the goodness of God in this our Deliverance. This Rebellion had been laid so deep that the Discovery could only prevent the Execution of it in this City, and awaken the Government to preserve this Castle. 'Tis strange that such a monstrous design should lie in the Breast of any Christian, and not tear his Conscience into a Discovery of it: And yet 'tis plain that we owe it to Gods particular Care, and extraordinary Mercy, that it ever came to light. He it was that gave a just sence of the Horror of this Rebellion to one of the Conspirators, who was himself an *Irish* Papist, and melted him into a Discovery of it; and if God had not thus watched over us, a few Hours had finished their Barbarity, our Nation and Religion had been both extirpated, without any prospect of ever returning into this Island. 'Tis the pious design of our present Festival, as it is indeed of all Christian Festivals, to acknowledge the extraordinary Mercies of God, and to give him the Glory of this Deliverance.

Now to Remember a Deliverance, is to have just and lively Impressions upon our Hearts, that God is the Author of it, and that his Providence has visibly interposed for our Rescue: it also obligeth us to consider the Ends of such a Deliverance. God has not done this for us, that we may Eat and Drink, and Sleep in safety, much less, that we gratifie our Lusts and Appetites, and have time to be wicked: but that we may live to praise and serve him, that we may adore him in those Churches, and serve him in the Purity of that Worship which he has so wonderfully preserved to us. The

Jews are taught to learn by their Deliverances, to serve the Lord, to walk in his ways, and to love him, Deut. 10. 11. This day represents to us a very great Deliverance, and let us not fail to make the same Returns.

Secondly, Another Duty we owe to God, is to be humbled and afflicted under those Judgments which were at this time issued in so large a measure upon our Country. The Discovery was a means to preserve this City, but it was made too late to extend the care of the Government much further: the Rebellion was Executed with all the Barbarity already described through the greater part of the Kingdom, and especially in the extream parts of it. The immediate Actors of this Cruelty were the *Irish* Papists; but such Instruments, we know, can do nothing without God's Permission; and his tenderest Care being Virtue and Religion, He sets an Hedge about the Righteous, he shuts him within a Tower and Bul-work; so that they were the Sins of our Country which opened the way to the Ruin and Destruction of it: These were the secret but certain causes of the Barbarities executed at this time; and these our Sins must be crying, and highly provoking to force God to visit us with such Terrors. And accordingly, our Historian Informs us, that the Sins of that time were of a grievous nature, and highly displeasing to God. Peace and Plenty had deceived men into the dangerous state of Security, so that they were neither so Religious as to regard the Laws of God, nor so Prudent as to execute the Laws of their Country: God's Ordinances were neglected, his Worship slighted; this brought in Prophaness, Licentiousness, and many other vices, and these were practised without Controul or Punishment. When the measure of our Iniquities grew to this height, the Wise and Just Governour of the World thought fit to visit us with the heavy Judgment of this Rebellion, where the Sword was put into the hands of Cruel Men, our Country became a Field of Blood, and the greatest Barbarities were executed.

'Tis not very long since Sins of the same nature had almost drawn down the same Judgments upon us; the Sword was put into the same hands, and though they did not proceed with the same Rage and Fury, yet we have seen many severe Examples of their Cruelty against our Country and Religion: Here God was pleased to put a quicker stop to these proud Waves, and chose our late Glorious Sovereign to be his Instrument of restoring to us our Religion, our Liberties, and our Country. But God still governs the World by the same unalterable laws of Wisdom and Justice: He has given us this Deliverance as a call and season for Repentance, and if we do not thus improve it, we shall Perish as our Fathers did, or be reserved for the greater Terrors of a future Judgment.

Thirdly, Another Duty I would recommend at this time is, an Union and Agreement among Protestants: This, next to the Reformation of our Lives, will be the best security against that violent and powerful Spirit of *Popery*, which by secret Plots and open Rebellions has so often projected our Ruin. A good Cause carried on with joint Force and united Measures will generally prosper, and 'tis not to be doubted but if the First Reformers in *Germany*, could have preserved this Temper, *Antichrist* had soon fallen, and the World had been long since delivered from the Tyranny and Oppressions of the Court of *Rome*; and consequently from that train of Evils this has produced.

This the *Papists* saw, and observing it to be impossible to oppose a Reformation; they had recourse to this wicked Artifice of dividing *Protestants*, and were so industrious in it, that their Emissaries put on the disguise of Preachers and Reformers, and pretended to carry on the same work, by recommending a purer worship: They soon saw their account in it, for it broke all Establishments, and opened a Door to endless Separations. And thus a Force which had appeared formidable to them, was torn to Pieces and rendered Contemptible.

Let

Let the present condition of the Reformed Churches give evidence, how fatal this Stratagem has been to us: We have lost many large Possessions we had in the *Empire* by it, and our whole Strength is now reduced to such Narrow Bounds, that if we do not grow wiser, and unite, there seems to be Ruin at our Doors.

Schism is reckoned by St. *Paul* among the works of the Flesh, and is one of the greatest Sins a Christian can be guilty of; but a just sense of this seems to be lost in the World, and therefore it is, that I press Unity by Arguments drawn from Interest and Self-preservation.

Let me Address the following Observation to our Dissenting Brethren. Seeing that our Established Church is that Temper in which most of the Foreign Churches would be content to centre and unite, why will they not join in Communion with us? This Example is often referred to in other Cases; And why will they refuse its just Force and Weight in the Case before us? Why will they not cure our *Schism* at Home, that we may be the more useful to our Brethren who suffer abroad?

Fourthly, We should thank God on this Occasion, for having delivered us from those Fears and Apprehensions, to which our Fathers were exposed. We have since obtained the security of many excellent Laws: We have a QUEEN Zealously Affected to our Church and Nation; and such a Government in this Kingdom, as our Hearts and Wishes have long desired, to give Life and Execution to these Laws. The Emissaries of *Rome*, who have been the Incendiaries of all Plots and Rebellions, and who, as you have heard, were the Formers of this before us, these are Banished for ever from our Country; our Crown, our Legislature, and all our Employments are purged from *Papery*, and there is a happy prospect of Safety and Prosperity before us.

But there is still one melancholly Appearance, and this arises from our Sins: These are Giants and Dangers in our way,

way, and we can never be safe, till these are repented of, and God is made our Friend by a Life of sincere Piety and true Holiness.

5thly, And lastly, I would recommend one thing more on this occasion, and that is, to endeavour by all proper means to convert the *Irish*; this will be the effectual way to remove all the Seeds of Rebellion, to root up all their Prejudices, and to cement us into one Interest: It will be the greatest Charity to their Souls, and the greatest Security to our selves.

That gross Ignorance in which our Papists are train'd up, their cruel Maxims to check the liberty of Thinking, and to prevent any fair Enquiry, render this Undertaking extremely difficult: However, this must not discourage us, and make it to be equally our Duty and our Interest to labour.

This Work which very well deserves the consideration of the August Assembly who now hear me; to whose I will only beg leave to offer, that if some small Bounties were made for such of their Priests as would convert to us, if Converts were distinguished by Favour and Encouragements: This added to a strict Execution of those Laws which have expelled the Regulars, would open a way for the Labours of the Clergy, and we might (with Gods Blessing) to see a happy Progress made in this most desirable Work: then the Erection of Schools, increasing the number of the Clergy, and other means of instructing this ignorant People, would have their full effect, and a joyful Harvest might be gathered into Christ's Kingdom.

I know it has been a matter of Reproach against the Clergy, that so little has been done towards Converting the *Irish*: I do not intend to cover any mans Faults or Neglects; but this I will be free to say, that without such Assistance from the Civil Power, unless they concur effectually to this Work, all our Labours will never accomplish it.

To conclude all, Mercies and Judgments, Life and Death are Represented to us in the History of this Day. These are the several Methods of Providence to lead us to Repentance: These are the Improvements which God requires from such Proceedings: And this is the way to bring Peace into our minds, to secure Peace and Prosperity to our Country, and to provide for our selves everlasting Peace: To which may Almighty God, of his Infinite Mercy, bring us all. Amen.



FINIS.